taluk and that the people of the interior villages of the taluk experienced immense hardship in having to go all the way to Perumbavur. Muvattupuzha was an important centre connected with the interior villages by good cartable roads and it also possessed all the public offices and a big market. In view to obviate the inconveniences of the people mentioned above, the Member requested that the local Tahsildar-Magistrate might be invested with First Class Magisterial powers.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

42. The necessity for the transfer of the Additional First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumbavur to Alwaye.

Mr. M. K. Kadir Pillai (Member, Alengad taluk) conveyed to Government the thanks of the Mahomedan community for the nomination of a Mahomedan member to the Legislative Council and also the appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector of Schools. He then stated that about 40 years back there was a District Court at Alwaye, but it was afterwards shifted to Parur. The civil jurisdiction over some of the *pakuthies* of the Alengad taluk was vested in the Perumbavur Munsiff's Court and the people of those *pakuthies* were put to much hardship, since they had to cross the Alwaye river and go to Perumbavur. The necessity for a Munsiff's Court at Alwaye had been urged at the various Sessions of the Assembly, but a court had not yet been sanctioned by Government. The establishment of a Village Panchayat Court alone without a Munsiff's Court was a source of real grievance to the people, because the litigant public had to resort to the latter court for taking execution proceedings in respect of decrees granted by the former court. He, therefore, urged the necessity for the establishment of a Munsiff's Court at Alwaye.

The Member next referred to the First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumbavur and said that it could, with advantage, be shifted to Alwaye, as the town of Alwaye was fast growing in importance and was in every way more convenient and centrally situated than Perumbavur.

Dewan's reply.—The representation of the Member will be referred to the High Court again.

43. Immediate necessity for re-instating at Shencottah a full-timed Munsiff's Court or at least a Munsiff-Magistrate's Court with enlarged powers and jurisdiction.

Mr. A. Ponnambalam Pillai (Member, Shencottah taluk) traced the origin of the Court to 1010 when a Civil Court was first established, as Shencottah was a frontier taluk. The distance of the several villages from the court-house varied up to 16 miles. The Tahsildar continued to do the duties of a Munsiff even after separate Munsiffs were appointed for the then Courts in the State, since the Shencottah taluk had a light file. In 1043, however, the Court was made a full-timed Munsiff's Court which continued till 1072 when the Government proposed to abolish the Court and amalgamate the same with that at Kottarakara. On the representation of the people, the Government kindly cancelled the order and entrusted the Tahsildar with civil functions. That arrangement continued till 1082, but not with success, or convenience to the people. In 1082 a Magistrate-Munsiff was appointed and he continued till 1087 when the Court was removed to Kottarakara. In 1090 the Court was restored, the Tahsildar being both a Munsiff and a Magistrate. Such an arrangement was highly undesirable in view of the fact that the Tahsildar had to come in close contact with the people and was thus likely to get prejudiced for or against a particular party in civil and criminal cases which he had to dispose of. Again, the combination of four functions in one and the same officer, *viz.*, Revenue, Magisterial, Civil, and Municipal, was highly objectionable, as it was a serious handicap to the duties of one branch at least out of the four mentioned above being performed satisfactorily. The result was that the people suffered. If the establishment of a separate Munsiff's Court was not feasible as it might not be self-supporting, the villages of the adjacent Pathanapuram taluk lying near the Railway line might be added to the territorial jurisdiction of the proposed Shencottah Munsiff. If that suggestion did not appeal to Government, a Revenue Tahsildar and President of the Town Improvement Committee might be separately appointed, the

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functions of a Magistrate and Munsiff being entrusted to another officer. Thus, an arrangement could be come to by which the four-fold functions now vesting in a single officer might be distributed to two officers in view to their respective duties being discharged more satisfactorily.

The Member also suggested that separate Panchayat Courts might be established for the several villages of the taluk with a view to lighten the cost of litigation and also afford relief to the Munsiff.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-10 P. M.

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